

May 11, 1983

Memo to File:

RE: Brush Wellman, Inc.  
Topaz Mining Property  
ACT/023/003  
Juab County, Utah

On April 15, 1983 Division technical staff members Pam Grubaugh-Littig, Wayne Hedberg, Susan Linner, Tom Portle and Tom Tetting toured the above referenced surface mine. John Blake represented the Division of State Lands. Present from Brush Wellman were Ken Poulson and Lee Davis. The purpose of the trip was to follow up on permitting and bonding with emphasis on a February 1981 request by Brush Wellman for a MRP revision. Although tentative approval was given by DOGM in March 1977, no final approval was ever given nor bond secured.

The tour commenced at the east end of the property at the Blue Chalk Group where mining operations had ceased. No reclamation had occurred here because further pit development may occur in the future. State section 16 was viewed from this point (a site for future development). Spoil piles were viewed in this location. These piles were being held to be available for backfill upon ultimate pit reclamation.

The Rainbow Group was viewed next. Old underground workings which had caved due to poor roof conditions were observed. Rhyolite composing the roof proved excessively difficult to stabilize resulting in abandonment. Anaconda had given up the attempt and sold the property to Brush Wellman. The Monitor group was also picked up in this sale. This site (on the west end of the property) was the site of current exploration drilling activities.

Active operations were observed at the Roadside II pit. Initial activity had occurred at the adjacent Roadside I in 1968. Backfilling procedures and/or alternatives were discussed here. Spoils are extended into adjacent areas and ore stockpiles are put up on these "pads". Spoils could be pushed back into the pits on final abandonment but it is not apparent that adequate volume would be available. Filling with off-site waste was also discussed. This matter will be pursued in the review process.

Next we viewed active operations consisting of a self loading scraper and a cat. A surveyor stakes the benched area according to field and laboratory tests required to determine the grade of the bertrandite. This utilizes the results of secondary drilling on 25 foot spacings to generate hanging wall structural contour maps and a field berylometer. In this way, necessary control is exercised on a resource not visible to the eye and with no geologic markers.



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Stockpiling serves a dual function since ore is mined from two pits at once (high and low grade). It must be done in such a way that a uniform mixture results when it is retrieved for shipment to allow a constant feed for the mills. Stockpile harvesting, like pit development and overburden removal is contracted out. Thus, a small crew (six or eight) is all that is required on a permanent basis to work the surface mine.

Water accumulates in pits and is pumped out for use in watering livestock.

Plants viewed on-site included bud sage, cheatgrass, phlox, Mormon tea, shadscale, broom snakeweed, horsebrush, rabbitbrush, galleta grass, Indian ricegrass and Indian paintbrush. Cover was approximately 10-15 percent.

THOMAS L. PORTLE *TLP*  
RECLAMATION SOILS SPECIALIST

TLP/lm

cc: Wayne Hedberg, DOGM  
Pam Grubaugh-Littig, DOGM  
Sue Limer, DOGM  
Tom Portle, DOGM  
Tom Tetting, DOGM